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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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SIERRA PATENT GROUP, LTD. 1663 Hwy 395, Suite 201 Minden, NV 89423			HA, LEYNNA A	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

MAY

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>
	10/701,011	WESINGER ET AL.
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>
	LEYNNA T. HA	2135

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 March 2007.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 20-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 20-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:
    1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                        |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date/ <u>02/20/07</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 20-38 remain pending.

Claims 1-19 are cancelled.

***Information Disclosure Statement***

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 10/25/2007 was filed after the mailing date of the Non-Final Rejection on 5/18/2007. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 20-38 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Baehr teaches an invention comprising different connections from different networks via standard network interfaces to the firewall (col.3, lines 36-62). Baehr discloses the claimed edge connection corresponding to a network connection as a port or network interface that is provided for each of the two networks and one or more ports are provided to one or more proxy networks (col.2, lines 8-15). Referring to Fig. 8, shows the private network 330 coupled via a network interface 410 to the screening system, the private network 335 coupled via a network interface 415 to the screening

system, and the proxy network 430 is coupled to the screen via the network interface 420 (col.3, lines 36-62 and col.5, lines 35-41). Therefore, this suggests multiple connections corresponding to a distinct proxy host (home) through the same screening system or multi-homed firewall. Baehr includes two private networks 330 and 335 with different connections wherein the private network 330 can assume to be the first network (i.e. a corporate domain corp.sun.com - col.5, lines 43-47) and the private network 335 refers to the second network (i.e. an engineering domain eng.sun.com - col.5, lines 39-42). Baehr further discloses the proxy network includes proxies (virtual hosts) for both the eng.sun.com and corp.sun.com (col.5, lines 50-52). Thus, suggests that both private networks include their own set of virtual proxy hosts. The claimed first edge connection corresponding to the first network connection can be the network interface connecting to a corresponding private network 335. The claimed second edge connection corresponding to first network connection can be the second network interface connecting to the second private network 330. Thus, obviously suggests a first edge connection comprising a first set of virtual hosts from a first network and a second edge connection comprising a second set of virtual hosts from a second network. Baehr discloses that the private network includes hosts and a proxy network includes a proxy virtual host mirroring each of a subset (or all) of the hosts (col.4, lines 25-50). Baehr's proxy hosts or servers are referring to the claimed virtual hosts. According to Baehr, each of the proxy host of the proxy network corresponds to one of the actual hosts within the private network (col.4, lines 31-39 and 49-50). Thus, Baehr obviously suggests an actual host of the private network is the claimed distinct home

and that each proxy host amongst the set of virtual hosts corresponds to a distinct host (home) between the first and second networks through the firewall (col.4, lines 33-37 and Fig.8).

Rosotoker teaches the conversion between a network protocol (i.e. IP-compliant) and the data protocol (i.e. non-IP compliant) used to handle large data streams such as MPEG packets but not limited to these particular protocols (col.25, lines 44-53). By translating outgoing packets in any protocol obviously can transform the IP-compliant traffic into a non-IP protocol appropriate for a destination. Hence, Rosotoker obviously suggests an IP-compliant network and a private network through which a connection may be made. Thus, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skills in the art to combine Baehr with Rosotoker to teach translation/conversion from one protocol to another (Rosotoker - col.18, lines 5-10) through which a connection may be made between said IP-compliant network and said private network because translating to a different protocol can accommodate the data stream of a non-IP compliant destination and providing connections to different network protocols to provide multiple external communication port connections transparent to the destined (Rosotoker-col.25, lines 34-37 and 44-52).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**4. Claims 20-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baehr, et al. (US 5,802,320) in view of Rosotoker, et al. (US 5,708,659).**

**As per claim 20:**

Baehr discloses a load-sharing server multi-homed firewall array comprising:  
an array of firewall machines coupled in parallel with an [IP-compliant network];  
*(col.2, lines 8-15 and col.3, lines 15-22 and 50-67)*  
each of the firewall machines of the array further comprising:  
a first edge connection corresponding to a first network connection and a second  
edge connection corresponding to a second network connection; (col.3, lines 36-62 and  
***Figs.5 and 8)***  
said first edge and second edge connection further comprising a first and second  
set of virtual hosts, said first set of virtual hosts *[configured to interface an associated*  
*firewall machine with said IP-compliant network]* and said second set of virtual hosts  
configured to interface an associated firewall machine with a private network; *(col.4,*  
***lines 25-50 and col.8, lines 40-45)***

each of said virtual hosts of said first and second set corresponding to a distinct home (**Fig.6 and col.4, lines 32-37 and 49-51**) through which a connection may be made between said [IP-compliant network] and said private network; (**col.5, lines 30-52 and col.10, lines 7-31**)

DNS functionality associated with each of firewall machines of the array; (**col.6, lines 5-10 and 58-67**)

a master configuration file associated with each of the firewall machines; and (**col.6, lines 30-55 and col.8, lines 12-27**)

wherein an ensuing connection request is mapped to the first firewall machine of the array to respond to a DNS request associated with said ensuing connection request.

(**col.7, lines 28-34 and col.8, line 58 – col.9, line 5**)

According to the applicant's specification (pg.16) that each virtual host corresponds to a "home" (i.e. site) via connection made between the two networks and that homes are synonymous to virtual hosts. So with the specification in mind, Examiner broadly interprets for each of the virtual hosts corresponding to a distinct home is where each virtual host relates to a real host or an actual host (home) of one of the networks. Thus, for purposes of applying art, the virtual host specific or distinct to its actual host (home) is one in the same when being referenced to for connection between the networks.

Baehr discloses that the private network includes hosts and a proxy network includes a proxy virtual host mirroring each of a subset (or all) of the hosts (col.4, lines 25-50). Baehr's proxy hosts or servers are referring to the claimed virtual hosts. According to Baehr, each of the proxy host of the proxy network corresponds to one of

the actual hosts within the private network (col.4, lines 31-39 and 49-50). Thus, Baehr obviously suggests an actual host of the private network is the claimed distinct home and that each proxy host amongst the set of virtual hosts corresponds to a distinct host (home) between the first and second networks through the firewall (col.4, lines 33-37 and Fig.8).

Baehr teaches an invention comprising the private network coupled via a standard network interface to the screening system, the public network is coupled to the screen via another network interface, and the proxy network is coupled to the screen via the network interface (Fig.5 and 8 and col.5, lines 35-41). Based on the information from the packet would indicate the state of the connection to a particular host or service in the network (col.6, lines 44-45) and such information determines whether the source host is in the expected domain (col.6, lines 48-53). The domains communicate with one another through a screen or a conventional firewall via a connection (col.5, lines 45-47). Baehr discloses a screening system which is configured to handle all of the conventional firewall functions plus the screening functions and different connections from different networks via standard network interfaces to the firewall (col.3, lines 36-62). Baehr discloses the claimed edge connection corresponding to a network connection as a port or network interface that is provided for each of the two networks and one or more ports are provided to one or more proxy networks (col.2, lines 8-15). Therefore, Bear reads on the claimed multi-homed firewall.

Referring to Fig. 5 and 8, shows the private network 330 coupled via a network interface 410 to the screening system, the private network 335 coupled via a network

interface 415 to the screening system, and the proxy network 430 is coupled to the screen via the network interface 420 (col.3, lines 36-62 and col.5, lines 35-41). Baehr includes two private networks 330 and 335 with different connections wherein the private network 330 can assume to be the first network (i.e. a corporate domain corp.sun.com - col.5, lines 43-47) and the private network 335 refers to the second network (i.e. an engineering domain eng.sun.com - col.5, lines 39-42). Baehr further discloses the proxy network includes proxies (virtual hosts) for both the eng.sun.com and corp.sun.com (col.5, lines 50-52). Thus, suggests the two different private networks include their own set of virtual proxy hosts. The claimed first edge connection corresponding to the first network connection can be the network interface connecting to a corresponding private network 335. The claimed second edge connection corresponding to first network connection can be the second network interface connecting to the second private network 330. Thus, obviously suggests a first edge connection comprising a first set of virtual hosts for processing connection requests from a first network and a second edge connection comprising a second set of virtual hosts for processing connection requests from a second network (col.5, lines 50-52 and Fig.8). Although, Baehr discloses virtual hosts and ensuing connection request is mapped to the firewall machine of the array to respond to a DNS request associated with said ensuing connection request (col.6, lines 5-62 and col.7, lines 28-34). However, the connection request does not involve an IP-compliant network and a private network through which a connection may be made between said IP-compliant network and said private network.

Rosotoker discloses network technology has suffered from limitations resulting from a proliferation of non-standard protocols, and limitations due to the nature of the protocols and transmission schemes, which are employed (col.2, lines 22-26). Rosotoker discloses that under heavy traffic, any attempt to determine to which port a packet must be switched must be accomplished speedily to avoid slowing throughput of the network (col.2, lines 41-45). Rosotoker discusses the network protocol processing system interconnection comprises packet conversion logic for conversion between network protocol (col.4, line 66 – col.5, line 1) where the invention is not necessarily limited to the particular protocols and standards used (col.25, lines 45-52). Rosotoker discusses the remote node connections typically exchange packets of data in Novell IPX, Microsoft NetBEUI, or Internet IP format (col.7, lines 65-67). Thus, depending upon the protocol employed internally the data received over a particular port may require translation from one protocol to another (col.18, lines 5-10) obviously suggests the received IP-compliant traffic being destined for said non-IP compliant destination. Further, Rosotoker discloses translating incoming packets in any protocol and outgoing packets in any different protocol (col.9, lines 28-31). Rosotoker discusses the ATM protocol is preferred but can use other protocols (col.8, lines 55-58). Rosotoker teaches the conversion between a network protocol (i.e. IP-compliant) and the data protocol (i.e. non-IP compliant) used to handle large data streams such as MPEG packets but not limited to these particular protocols (col.25, lines 44-53). By translating outgoing packets in any protocol obviously can transform the IP-compliant traffic into a non-IP

protocol appropriate for a destination. Hence, Rosotoker obviously suggests an IP-compliant network and a private network through which a connection may be made.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skills in the art to combine Baehr teaching network connectivity by allowing connections to be established with the virtual hosts with Rosotoker to teach translation/conversion from one protocol to another (Rosotoker - col.18, lines 5-10) through which a connection may be made between said IP-compliant network and said private network because translating to a different protocol can accommodate the data stream of a non-IP compliant destination and providing connections to different network protocols to provide multiple external communication port connections transparent to the destined (Rosotoker-col.25, lines 34-37 and 44-52).

**As per claim 21: See Baehr on col.6, lines 5-10 and 58-67 and col.7, lines 28-34;**  
discussing load-sharing multi-homed firewall array of claim 20, wherein a connection request received from the IP-compliant network is mapped to said first set of virtual hosts on the first firewall machine of the array to respond to a DNS request.

**As per claim 22: See Baehr on col.6, lines 5-10 and 58-67 and col.7, lines 28-34;;**  
discussing load-sharing multi-homed firewall array of claim 20, wherein a connection request received from the private network is mapped to said second set of virtual hosts on the first firewall machine of the array to respond to a DNS request.

**As per claim 23: See Baehr on col.5, lines 30-35 and col.6, lines 18-25 and col.10, lines 7-31;** discussing load-sharing multi-homed firewall array of claim 20, wherein each of said firewall machines further comprises a special-purpose virtual host including an

HTML-based configuration module for updating said master configuration files over said IP-compliant network.

**As per claim 24:** See Baehr on col.4, lines 25-50 and col.8, lines 40-45 and; discussing load-sharing multi-homed firewall array of claim 23, wherein each of said firewall machines includes N + 1 sets of virtual hosts.

**As per claim 25:**

Baehr discloses a load-sharing multi-homed firewall array comprising:  
means for coupling a plurality of firewall means in parallel with [an IP-compliant network]; (*col.2, lines 8-15 and col.3, lines 15-22 and 50-67*)  
each of the firewall machines of the array further comprising:  
a first edge connection means corresponding to a first network connection and a second edge connection means corresponding to a second network connection; (*col.3, lines 36-62 and Figs.5 and 8*)

said first edge and second edge connection means further comprising a first set of virtual host means interfacing an associated firewall means [with said IP-compliant network] and said second set of virtual host means interfacing an associated firewall means with a private network; (*col.4, lines 25-50 and col.8, lines 40-45*)

each of said virtual hosts of said first and second set corresponding to a distinct home (*Fig.6 and col.4, lines 32-37and 49-51*) through which a connection may be made between said [IP-compliant network] and said private network; (*col.5, lines 30-52 and col.10, lines 7-31*)

means for providing DNS functionality associated with each of firewall means; (*col.6, lines 5-10 and 58-67*)

master configuration means associated with each of the firewall machines; and  
**(col.6, lines 30-55 and col.8, lines 12-27)**

means for mapping an ensuing connection request to the first firewall means to respond to a DNS request associated with said ensuing connection request. **(col.7, lines 28-34 and col.8, line 58 – col.9, line 5)**

According to the applicant's specification (pg.16) that each virtual host corresponds to a "home" (i.e. site) via connection made between the two networks and that homes are synonymous to virtual hosts. So with the specification in mind, Examiner broadly interprets for each of the virtual hosts corresponding to a distinct home is where each virtual host relates to a real host or an actual host (home) of one of the networks. Thus, for purposes of applying art, the virtual host specific or distinct to its actual host (home) is one in the same when being referenced to for connection between the networks.

Baehr discloses that the private network includes hosts and a proxy network includes a proxy virtual host mirroring each of a subset (or all) of the hosts (col.4, lines 25-50). Baehr's proxy hosts or servers are referring to the claimed virtual hosts. According to Baehr, each of the proxy host of the proxy network corresponds to one of the actual hosts within the private network (col.4, lines 31-39 and 49-50). Thus, Baehr obviously suggests an actual host of the private network is the claimed distinct home and that each proxy host amongst the set of virtual hosts corresponds to a distinct host (home) between the first and second networks through the firewall (col.4, lines 33-37 and Fig.8).

Baehr teaches an invention comprising the private network coupled via a standard network interface to the screening system, the public network is coupled to the screen via another network interface, and the proxy network is coupled to the screen via the network interface (Fig.5 and 8 and col.5, lines 35-41). Based on the information from the packet would indicate the state of the connection to a particular host or service in the network (col.6, lines 44-45) and such information determines whether the source host is in the expected domain (col.6, lines 48-53). The domains communicate with one another through a screen or a conventional firewall via a connection (col.5, lines 45-47). Baehr discloses a screening system which is configured to handle all of the conventional firewall functions plus the screening functions and different connections from different networks via standard network interfaces to the firewall (col.3, lines 36-62). Baehr discloses the claimed edge connection corresponding to a network connection as a port or network interface that is provided for each of the two networks and one or more ports are provided to one or more proxy networks (col.2, lines 8-15). Therefore, Bear reads on the claimed multi-homed firewall.

Referring to Fig. 5 and 8, shows the private network 330 coupled via a network interface 410 to the screening system, the private network 335 coupled via a network interface 415 to the screening system, and the proxy network 430 is coupled to the screen via the network interface 420 (col.3, lines 36-62 and col.5, lines 35-41). Baehr includes two private networks 330 and 335 with different connections wherein the private network 330 can assume to be the first network (i.e. a corporate domain corp.sun.com - col.5, lines 43-47) and the private network 335 refers to the second

network (i.e. an engineering domain eng.sun.com - col.5, lines 39-42). Baehr further discloses the proxy network includes proxies (virtual hosts) for both the eng.sun.com and corp.sun.com (col.5, lines 50-52). Thus, suggests the two different private networks include their own set of virtual proxy hosts. The claimed first edge connection corresponding to the first network connection can be the network interface connecting to a corresponding private network 335. The claimed second edge connection corresponding to first network connection can be the second network interface connecting to the second private network 330. Thus, obviously suggests a first edge connection comprising a first set of virtual hosts for processing connection requests from a first network and a second edge connection comprising a second set of virtual hosts for processing connection requests from a second network (col.5, lines 50-52 and Fig.8). Although, Baehr discloses virtual hosts and ensuing connection request is mapped to the firewall machine of the array to respond to a DNS request associated with said ensuing connection request (col.6, lines 5-62 and col.7, lines 28-34). However, the connection request does not involve an IP-compliant network and a private network through which a connection may be made between said IP-compliant network and said private network.

Rosotoker discloses network technology has suffered from limitations resulting from a proliferation of non-standard protocols, and limitations due to the nature of the protocols and transmission schemes, which are employed (col.2, lines 22-26). Rosotoker discloses that under heavy traffic, any attempt to determine to which port a packet must be switched must be accomplished speedily to avoid slowing throughput of

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the network (col.2, lines 41-45). Rosotoker discusses the network protocol processing system interconnection comprises packet conversion logic for conversion between network protocol (col.4, line 66 – col.5, line 1) where the invention is not necessarily limited to the particular protocols and standards used (col.25, lines 45-52). Rosotoker discusses the remote node connections typically exchange packets of data in Novell IPX, Microsoft NetBEUI, or Internet IP format (col.7, lines 65-67). Thus, depending upon the protocol employed internally the data received over a particular port may require translation from one protocol to another (col.18, lines 5-10) obviously suggests the received IP-compliant traffic being destined for said non-IP compliant destination. Further, Rosotoker discloses translating incoming packets in any protocol and outgoing packets in any different protocol (col.9, lines 28-31). Rosotoker discusses the ATM protocol is preferred but can use other protocols (col.8, lines 55-58). Rosotoker teaches the conversion between a network protocol (i.e. IP-compliant) and the data protocol (i.e. non-IP compliant) used to handle large data streams such as MPEG packets but not limited to these particular protocols (col.25, lines 44-53). By translating outgoing packets in any protocol obviously can transform the IP-compliant traffic into a non-IP protocol appropriate for a destination. Hence, Rosotoker obviously suggests an IP-compliant network and a private network through which a connection may be made.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skills in the art to combine Baehr teaching network connectivity by allowing connections to be established with the virtual hosts with Rosotoker to teach translation/conversion from one protocol to another (Rosotoker - col.18, lines 5-10) through which a connection may be made between

said IP-compliant network and said private network because translating to a different protocol can accommodate the data stream of a non-IP compliant destination and providing connections to different network protocols to provide multiple external communication port connections transparent to the destined (Rosotoker-col.25, lines 34-37 and 44-52).

**As per claim 26: See Baehr on col.6, lines 5-10 and 58-67 and col.7, lines 28-34;;**  
discussing load-sharing multi-homed firewall array of claim 25, further comprising means for mapping a connection request received from the IP-compliant network to said first set of virtual host means on the first firewall means to respond to a DNS request.

**As per claim 27: See Baehr on col.6, lines 5-10 and 58-67 and col.7, lines 28-34;;**  
discussing load-sharing multi-homed firewall array of claim 25, further comprising means for mapping a connection request received from the private network to said second set of virtual host means on the first firewall means to respond to a DNS request.

**As per claim 28: See Baehr on col.5, lines 30-35 and col.6, lines 18-25 and col.10, lines 7-31;** discussing load-sharing multi-homed firewall array of claim 25, further comprising HTML-based configuration means for updating said master configuration means over said IP-compliant network.

**As per claim 29: See Baehr on col.4, lines 25-50 and col.8, lines 40-45 and;**  
discussing load-sharing multi-homed firewall array of claim 28, wherein each of said firewall means includes N + 1 sets of virtual host means.

**As per claim 30:**

Baehr discloses a load-sharing multi-homed firewall array comprising:  
an array of firewall machines coupled in a parallel with an [IP-compliant network];  
**(col.2, lines 8-15 and col.3, lines 15-22 and 50-67)**  
each of the firewall machines of the array further comprising:  
a first edge connection corresponding to a first network connection and a second  
edge connection corresponding to a second network connection; (col.3, lines 36-62 and  
**Figs.5 and 8)**  
said first edge and second edge connection further comprising at least a first and  
second set of virtual hosts, said first set of virtual hosts (*Fig.6*) [*configured to interface*  
*an associated firewall machine with said IP-compliant network*] and said second set of  
virtual hosts configured to interface an associated firewall machine with a private  
network; **(col.4, lines 25-50 and col.8, lines 40-45)**  
DNS functionality associated with each of firewall machines of the array; **(col.6,**  
**lines 5-10 and 58-67)**  
a master configuration file associated with each of the firewall machines; **(col.6,**  
**lines 30-51 and col.8, lines 12-27)**  
a special-purpose virtual host including an HTML-based configuration module for  
updating said master configuration files using a point-and-click interface over said [IP-  
compliant network]; and **(col.5, lines 30-35 and col.6, lines 18-25 and col.10, lines 7-31)**  
wherein an ensuing connection request is mapped to the first firewall machine of  
the array to respond to a DNS request associated with said ensuing connection request.  
**(col.7, lines 28-34 and col.8, line 58 – col.9, line 5)**

According to the applicant's specification (pg.16) that each virtual host corresponds to a "home" (i.e. site) via connection made between the two networks and that homes are synonymous to virtual hosts. So with the specification in mind, Examiner broadly interprets for each of the virtual hosts corresponding to a distinct home is where each virtual host relates to a real host or an actual host (home) of one of the networks. Thus, for purposes of applying art, the virtual host specific or distinct to its actual host (home) is one in the same when being referenced to for connection between the networks.

Baehr discloses that the private network includes hosts and a proxy network includes a proxy virtual host mirroring each of a subset (or all) of the hosts (col.4, lines 25-50). Baehr's proxy hosts or servers are referring to the claimed virtual hosts. According to Baehr, each of the proxy host of the proxy network corresponds to one of the actual hosts within the private network (col.4, lines 31-39 and 49-50). Thus, Baehr obviously suggests an actual host of the private network is the claimed distinct home and that each proxy host amongst the set of virtual hosts corresponds to a distinct host (home) between the first and second networks through the firewall (col.4, lines 33-37 and Fig.8).

Baehr teaches an invention comprising the private network coupled via a standard network interface to the screening system, the public network is coupled to the screen via another network interface, and the proxy network is coupled to the screen via the network interface (Fig.5 and 8 and col.5, lines 35-41). Based on the information from the packet would indicate the state of the connection to a particular host or service

in the network (col.6, lines 44-45) and such information determines whether the source host is in the expected domain (col.6, lines 48-53). The domains communicate with one another through a screen or a conventional firewall via a connection (col.5, lines 45-47). Baehr discloses a screening system which is configured to handle all of the conventional firewall functions plus the screening functions and different connections from different networks via standard network interfaces to the firewall (col.3, lines 36-62). Baehr discloses the claimed edge connection corresponding to a network connection as a port or network interface that is provided for each of the two networks and one or more ports are provided to one or more proxy networks (col.2, lines 8-15). Therefore, Bear reads on the claimed multi-homed firewall.

Referring to Fig. 5 and 8, shows the private network 330 coupled via a network interface 410 to the screening system, the private network 335 coupled via a network interface 415 to the screening system, and the proxy network 430 is coupled to the screen via the network interface 420 (col.3, lines 36-62 and col.5, lines 35-41). Baehr includes two private networks 330 and 335 with different connections wherein the private network 330 can assume to be the first network (i.e. a corporate domain corp.sun.com - col.5, lines 43-47) and the private network 335 refers to the second network (i.e. an engineering domain eng.sun.com - col.5, lines 39-42). Baehr further discloses the proxy network includes proxies (virtual hosts) for both the eng.sun.com and corp.sun.com (col.5, lines 50-52). Thus, suggests the two different private networks include their own set of virtual proxy hosts. The claimed first edge connection corresponding to the first network connection can be the network interface connecting to

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a corresponding private network 335. The claimed second edge connection corresponding to first network connection can be the second network interface connecting to the second private network 330. Thus, obviously suggests a first edge connection comprising a first set of virtual hosts for processing connection requests from a first network and a second edge connection comprising a second set of virtual hosts for processing connection requests from a second network (col.5, lines 50-52 and Fig.8). Although, Baehr discloses virtual hosts and ensuing connection request is mapped to the firewall machine of the array to respond to a DNS request associated with said ensuing connection request (col.6, lines 5-62 and col.7, lines 28-34). However, the connection request does not involve an IP-compliant network and a private network through which a connection may be made between said IP-compliant network and said private network.

Rosotoker discloses network technology has suffered from limitations resulting from a proliferation of non-standard protocols, and limitations due to the nature of the protocols and transmission schemes, which are employed (col.2, lines 22-26). Rosotoker discloses that under heavy traffic, any attempt to determine to which port a packet must be switched must be accomplished speedily to avoid slowing throughput of the network (col.2, lines 41-45). Rosotoker discusses the network protocol processing system interconnection comprises packet conversion logic for conversion between network protocol (col.4, line 66 – col.5, line 1) where the invention is not necessarily limited to the particular protocols and standards used (col.25, lines 45-52). Rosotoker discusses the remote node connections typically exchange packets of data in Novell

IPX, Microsoft NetBEUI, or Internet IP format (col.7, lines 65-67). Thus, depending upon the protocol employed internally the data received over a particular port may require translation from one protocol to another (col.18, lines 5-10) obviously suggests the received IP-compliant traffic being destined for said non-IP compliant destination. Further, Rosotoker discloses translating incoming packets in any protocol and outgoing packets in any different protocol (col.9, lines 28-31). Rosotoker discusses the ATM protocol is preferred but can use other protocols (col.8, lines 55-58). Rosotoker teaches the conversion between a network protocol (i.e. IP-compliant) and the data protocol (i.e. non-IP compliant) used to handle large data streams such as MPEG packets but not limited to these particular protocols (col.25, lines 44-53). By translating outgoing packets in any protocol obviously can transform the IP-compliant traffic into a non-IP protocol appropriate for a destination. Hence, Rosotoker obviously suggests an IP-compliant network and a private network through which a connection may be made.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skills in the art to combine Baehr teaching network connectivity by allowing connections to be established with the virtual hosts with Rosotoker to teach translation/conversion from one protocol to another (Rosotoker - col.18, lines 5-10) through which a connection may be made between said IP-compliant network and said private network because translating to a different protocol can accommodate the data stream of a non-IP compliant destination and providing connections to different network protocols to provide multiple external communication port connections transparent to the destined (Rosotoker-col.25, lines 34-37 and 44-52).

**As per claim 31: See Baehr on col.6, lines 5-10 and 58-67 and col.7, lines 28-34;**  
discussing load-sharing multi-homed firewall array of claim 30, wherein: connection request received from the IP-compliant network is mapped to said first set of virtual hosts on the first firewall machine of the array to respond to a DNS request.

**As per claim 32: See Baehr on col.6, lines 5-10 and 58-67 and col.7, lines 28-34;**  
discussing load-sharing multi-homed firewall array of claim 30, wherein connection request received from the private network is mapped to said second set of virtual hosts on the first firewall machine of the array to respond to a DNS request.

**As per claim 33: See Baehr on col.5, lines 30-35 and col.6, lines 18-25 and col.10, lines 7-31;** discussing load-sharing multi-homed firewall array of claim 30, wherein each of said firewall machines further comprises a special-purpose virtual host including an HTML-based configuration module for updating said master configuration files over said IP-compliant network.

**As per claim 34: See Baehr on col.4, lines 25-50 and col.8, lines 40-45;** discussing load-sharing multi-homed firewall array of claim 33, wherein each of said firewall machines includes  $N + 1$  sets of virtual hosts.

**As per claim 35:**

Baehr discloses a load-sharing multi-homed firewall array comprising:  
means for coupling a plurality of firewall means in parallel with [*an IP-compliant network*]; (*col.2, lines 8-15 and col.3, lines 15-22 and 50-67*)  
each of the firewall machines of the array further comprising:

a first edge connection means corresponding to a first network connection and a second edge connection means corresponding to a second network connection; (col.3, lines 36-62 and Figs.5 and 8)

said first edge and second edge connection means further comprising a first set of virtual host means interfacing an associated firewall means (Fig.6) [with said IP-compliant network] and said second set of virtual host means interfacing an associated firewall machine with a private network; (col.4, lines 25-50 and col.8, lines 40-45)

means for providing DNS functionality associated with each of firewall means; (col.6, lines 5-10 and 58-67)

master configuration means associated with each of the firewall machines; (col.6, lines 30-51 and col.8, lines 12-27)

an HTML-based configuration means for updating said master configuration means using a point-and-click interface over said [IP-compliant network]; and (col.5, lines 30-35 and col.6, lines 18-25 and col.10, lines 7-31)

means for mapping an ensuing connection request to the first firewall means to respond to a DNS request associated with said ensuing connection request. (col.7, lines 28-34 and col.8, line 58 – col.9, line 5)

According to the applicant's specification (pg.16) that each virtual host corresponds to a "home" (i.e. site) via connection made between the two networks and that homes are synonymous to virtual hosts. So with the specification in mind, Examiner broadly interprets for each of the virtual hosts corresponding to a distinct home is where each virtual host relates to a real host or an actual host (home) of one of the networks. Thus, for purposes of applying art, the virtual host specific or distinct to

its actual host (home) is one in the same when being referenced to for connection between the networks.

Baehr discloses that the private network includes hosts and a proxy network includes a proxy virtual host mirroring each of a subset (or all) of the hosts (col.4, lines 25-50). Baehr's proxy hosts or servers are referring to the claimed virtual hosts. According to Baehr, each of the proxy host of the proxy network corresponds to one of the actual hosts within the private network (col.4, lines 31-39 and 49-50). Thus, Baehr obviously suggests an actual host of the private network is the claimed distinct home and that each proxy host amongst the set of virtual hosts corresponds to a distinct host (home) between the first and second networks through the firewall (col.4, lines 33-37 and Fig.8).

Baehr teaches an invention comprising the private network coupled via a standard network interface to the screening system, the public network is coupled to the screen via another network interface, and the proxy network is coupled to the screen via the network interface (Fig.5 and 8 and col.5, lines 35-41). Based on the information from the packet would indicate the state of the connection to a particular host or service in the network (col.6, lines 44-45) and such information determines whether the source host is in the expected domain (col.6, lines 48-53). The domains communicate with one another through a screen or a conventional firewall via a connection (col.5, lines 45-47). Baehr discloses a screening system which is configured to handle all of the conventional firewall functions plus the screening functions and different connections from different networks via standard network interfaces to the firewall (col.3, lines 36-

62). Baehr discloses the claimed edge connection corresponding to a network connection as a port or network interface that is provided for each of the two networks and one or more ports are provided to one or more proxy networks (col.2, lines 8-15). Therefore, Bear reads on the claimed multi-homed firewall.

Referring to Fig. 5 and 8, shows the private network 330 coupled via a network interface 410 to the screening system, the private network 335 coupled via a network interface 415 to the screening system, and the proxy network 430 is coupled to the screen via the network interface 420 (col.3, lines 36-62 and col.5, lines 35-41). Baehr includes two private networks 330 and 335 with different connections wherein the private network 330 can assume to be the first network (i.e. a corporate domain corp.sun.com - col.5, lines 43-47) and the private network 335 refers to the second network (i.e. an engineering domain eng.sun.com - col.5, lines 39-42). Baehr further discloses the proxy network includes proxies (virtual hosts) for both the eng.sun.com and corp.sun.com (col.5, lines 50-52). Thus, suggests the two different private networks include their own set of virtual proxy hosts. The claimed first edge connection corresponding to the first network connection can be the network interface connecting to a corresponding private network 335. The claimed second edge connection corresponding to first network connection can be the second network interface connecting to the second private network 330. Thus, obviously suggests a first edge connection comprising a first set of virtual hosts for processing connection requests from a first network and a second edge connection comprising a second set of virtual hosts for processing connection requests from a second network (col.5, lines 50-52 and

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Fig.8). Although, Baehr discloses virtual hosts and ensuing connection request is mapped to the firewall machine of the array to respond to a DNS request associated with said ensuing connection request (col.6, lines 5-62 and col.7, lines 28-34). However, the connection request does not involve an IP-compliant network and a private network through which a connection may be made between said IP-compliant network and said private network.

Rosotoker discloses network technology has suffered from limitations resulting from a proliferation of non-standard protocols, and limitations due to the nature of the protocols and transmission schemes, which are employed (col.2, lines 22-26). Rosotoker discloses that under heavy traffic, any attempt to determine to which port a packet must be switched must be accomplished speedily to avoid slowing throughput of the network (col.2, lines 41-45). Rosotoker discusses the network protocol processing system interconnection comprises packet conversion logic for conversion between network protocol (col.4, line 66 – col.5, line 1) where the invention is not necessarily limited to the particular protocols and standards used (col.25, lines 45-52). Rosotoker discusses the remote node connections typically exchange packets of data in Novell IPX, Microsoft NetBEUI, or Internet IP format (col.7, lines 65-67). Thus, depending upon the protocol employed internally the data received over a particular port may require translation from one protocol to another (col.18, lines 5-10) obviously suggests the received IP-compliant traffic being destined for said non-IP compliant destination. Further, Rosotoker discloses translating incoming packets in any protocol and outgoing packets in any different protocol (col.9, lines 28-31). Rosotoker discusses the ATM

protocol is preferred but can use other protocols (col.8, lines 55-58). Rosotoker teaches the conversion between a network protocol (i.e. IP-compliant) and the data protocol (i.e. non-IP compliant) used to handle large data streams such as MPEG packets but not limited to these particular protocols (col.25, lines 44-53). By translating outgoing packets in any protocol obviously can transform the IP-compliant traffic into a non-IP protocol appropriate for a destination. Hence, Rosotoker obviously suggests an IP-compliant network and a private network through which a connection may be made.

Therefore, it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skills in the art to combine Baehr teaching network connectivity by allowing connections to be established with the virtual hosts with Rosotoker to teach translation/conversion from one protocol to another (Rosotoker - col.18, lines 5-10) through which a connection may be made between said IP-compliant network and said private network because translating to a different protocol can accommodate the data stream of a non-IP compliant destination and providing connections to different network protocols to provide multiple external communication port connections transparent to the destined (Rosotoker-col.25, lines 34-37 and 44-52).

**As per claim 36: See Baehr on col.6, lines 5-10 and 58-67 and col.7, lines 28-34;**  
discussing load-sharing multi-homed firewall array of claim 35, further comprising means for mapping a connection request received from the IP-compliant network to said first set of virtual host means on the first firewall means to respond to a DNS request.

**As per claim 37: See Baehr on col.6, lines 5-10 and 58-67 and col.7, lines 28-34;**  
discussing load-sharing multi-homed firewall array of claim 35, further comprising

means for mapping a connection request received from the private network to said second set of virtual host means on the first firewall means to respond to a DNS request.

**As per claim 38: See Baehr on col.4, lines 25-50 and col.8, lines 40-45 and;**  
discussing load-sharing multi-homed firewall array of claim 35, wherein each of said firewall means includes N + 1 sets of virtual host means.

### ***Conclusion***

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LEYNNA T. HA whose telephone number is (571) 272-3851. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday (7:00 - 5:00PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Vu can be reached on (571) 272-3859. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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